

§ 1151.2 Procedures.

(a) Service. When an application is filed, applicant must concurrently serve a copy of the application by first class mail on:

- (1) The owning railroad;
- (2) All rail patrons who originated and/or received traffic on the line during the 12-month period preceding the month in which the application is filed;
- (3) The designated State agency in the State(s) where the property is located;
- (4) County governments where the line is located;
- (5) The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) (if Amtrak operates on the line);
- (6) And the national offices of rail unions with employees on the line.

(b) Acceptance or rejection of an application.

(1) The Board, through the Director of the Office of Proceedings, will accept a complete application no later than 30 days after the application is filed by publishing a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER. An application is complete if it has been properly served and contains substantially all information required by § 1151.3, except as modified by advance waiver. The notice will also announce the schedule for filing of competing applications and responses.

(2) The Board, through the Director of the Office of Proceedings, will reject an incomplete application by serving a decision no later than 30 days after the application is filed. The decision will explain specifically why the application was incomplete. A revised application may be submitted, incorporating portions of the prior application by reference.

(c) Competing applications.

(1) Unless otherwise scheduled in the notice, competing applications by other parties seeking to acquire all or any portion of the line sought in the initial application are due within 30 days after the initial application is accepted.

(2) The Board, through the Director of the Office of Proceedings, will issue a decision accepting or rejecting a competing application no later than 15 days after it is filed. A competing application will be rejected if it does not substantially contain the information

required by § 1151.3, except as modified by advance waiver.

(d) Incomplete applications.

(1) If an applicant seeking to file an initial or competing application is unable to obtain required information that is primarily or exclusively within the personal knowledge of the owning carrier, the applicant may file an incomplete application if it files at the same time a request for discovery under 49 CFR part 1114 to obtain the needed information from the owning carrier.

(2) The Board, through the Director of the Office of Proceedings, will by decision conditionally accept incomplete initial or competing applications, if the Director determines that the discovery sought is necessary for the application and primarily or exclusively within the knowledge of the owning carrier.

(3) When the information sought through discovery has been filed for an initial application, FEDERAL REGISTER notice under paragraph (b) of this section will be published.

(4) When the information sought through discovery has been filed for a competing application, a decision will be issued under paragraph (c) of this section.

(e) Comments. Unless otherwise scheduled in the notice, verified statements and comments addressing both the initial and competing applications must be filed within 60 days after the initial application is accepted.

(f) Replies. Unless otherwise scheduled in the notice, verified replies by applicants and other interested parties must be filed within 80 days after the initial application is accepted.

(g) Publication. If the Board finds that the public convenience and necessity require or permit sale of the line, the Board shall concurrently publish this finding in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(h) Acceptance or rejection. If the Board concludes that sale of the line should be required, the applicant(s) must file a notice with the Board and the owning railroad accepting or rejecting the Board's determination. The notice must be filed within 10 days of the service date of the decision.

(i) Selection. If two or more applicants timely file notices accepting the

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Board's determination, the owning railroad must select the applicant to which it will sell the line and file notice of its selection with the Board and serve a copy on the applicants within 15 days of the service date of the Board decision.

(j) Waiver. Prior to filing an initial or competing application, an applicant may file a petition to waive or clarify specific portions of part 1151. A decision by the Director of the Office of Proceedings granting or denying a petition for waiver or clarification will be issued within 30 days of the date the petition is filed. Appeals from the Director's decision will be decided by the entire Board.

(k) Extension. Extensions of filing dates may be granted for good cause.

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§ 1151.3 Contents of application.

(a) The initial application and all competing applications must include the following information in the form of verified statements:

(1) Identification of the line to be purchased including:

(i) The name of the owning carrier; and

(ii) The exact location of the line to be purchased including milepost designations, origin and termination points, stations located on the line, and cities, counties and States traversed by the line.

(2) Identification of applicant including:

(i) The applicant's name and address;

(ii) The name, address, and phone number of the representative to receive correspondence concerning this application;

(iii) A description of applicant's affiliation with any railroad; and

(iv) If the applicant is a corporation, the names and addresses of its officers and directors.

(3) Information sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a financially responsible person. In this regard, the applicant must demonstrate its ability:

(i) To pay the higher of the net liquidation value (NLV) or going concern value (GCV) of the line; and

(ii) To cover expenses associated with providing services over the line (in-

cluding, but not limited to, operating costs, rents, and taxes) for at least the first 3 years after acquisition of the line.

(4) An estimate of the NLV and the GCV of the line and evidence in support of these estimates.

(5) An offer to purchase the line at the higher of the two estimates submitted pursuant to paragraph (a)(4) of this section.

(6) The dates for the proposed period of operation of the line covered by the application.

(7) An operating plan that identifies the proposed operator; attaches any contract that the applicant may have with the proposed operator; describes in detail the service that is to be provided over the line, including all inter-line connections; and demonstrates that adequate transportation will be provided over the line for at least 3 years from the date of acquisition.

(8) A description of the liability insurance coverage carried by applicant or any proposed operator. If trackage rights are requested, the insurance must be at a level sufficient to indemnify the owning railroad against all personal and property damage that may result from negligence on the part of the operator in exercising the trackage rights.

(9) Any preconditions (such as assuming a share of any subsidy payments) that will be placed on shippers in order for them to receive service, and a statement that if the application is approved, no further preconditions will be placed on shippers without Board approval. (This Statement Will Be Binding Upon Applicant if the Application is Approved.)

(10) The name and address of any person(s) who will subsidize the operation of the line.

(11) A statement that the applicant will seek a finding by the Board that the public convenience and necessity permit or require acquisition, or a statement that the line is currently in category 1 or 2 of the owning railroad's system diagram map.

(i) If the applicant seeks a finding of public convenience and necessity, the application must contain detailed evidence that permits the Board to find that: